

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 11 and ADD new claims 57-64 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of crediting a pre-authorized account of a user, maintained at a platform connected to a plurality of networks, comprising:

 sending a request message to the user at a receiver that the pre-authorized account needs additional funds;

 receiving a response message from the user using the receiver requesting additional funds be added to the pre-authorized account in accordance with the request message;

 authenticating at the platform, using a password and a number unique to the user, that the user is associated with the pre-authorized account and identifying another account from which the additional funds are to be drawn; and

 after authentication that the user is associated with the pre-authorized account, obtaining the additional funds in a real-time transaction debiting the other account and adding the additional funds to the pre-authorized account used in paying for at least one communication service or transaction, provided or consummated, respectively via at least one of the networks of different types which are external to the platform.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiver is a wireless device.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving the response message includes receiving in the response message another number that is usable to obtain the additional funds from the other account.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, authenticating at the platform, using the password, the number unique to the user, and the other number, that the user is associated with the pre-authorized account and identifying the other account from which the additional funds are to be drawn.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing an identification of the user using the password and the number unique to the user.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending the request message comprises sending the request message to the user at the receiver according to a stored record identifying the receiver associated with the user.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of crediting a pre-authorized account of a user, comprising:

 sending a request message to the user at a receiver that the pre-authorized account needs additional funds;

 receiving a response message from the user sent from the receiver and including a number associated with the user;

 according to the number associated with the user, sending a request from a first platform to a second platform to obtain the additional funds from another account associated with the user and disposed on the second platform; and

 receiving the additional funds obtained from a real-time transaction debiting the other account and adding the additional funds to the pre-authorized account disposed on a platform other than the second platform, the additional funds used to pay for at least one communication service or transaction, provided or consummated, respectively via at least one of a plurality of networks of different types which are external to the first and second platforms.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 7, further comprising authenticating at the first platform that the user is associated with the pre-authorized account, wherein the sending the request from the first platform to the second platform occurs if it is authenticated that the user is associated with the pre-authorized account.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 8, further comprising establishing at the first platform an identification number associated with the user, wherein the authenticating the user comprises authenticating the user using the established identification number.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of crediting pre-authorized account of a user, comprising:

receiving at a first platform an identification number and a password using a receiver;

authenticating the user at the first platform using the identification number and the password;

sending a message to the user at the receiver indicating that the pre-authorized account needs additional funds;

if the user is authenticated and if the user has responded to a message indicating that the pre-authorized account needs additional funds, determining another account on another platform from which the additional funds are to be obtained to be included in the pre-authorized account; and

adding the additional funds to the pre-authorized account in a real-time transaction debiting the other account, thereby making the additional funds available to pay for at least one communication service or transaction, provided or consummated, respectively via at least one of a plurality of networks of different types which are external to the first platform.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for use in crediting a ~~an~~ account of a user using another account not on the system, the system comprising:

a storage device including a first user account;

a first platform unit which receives a first unique number from a user sent from a receiver disposed outside of the system, sends the first unique number to a second platform unit for use in verification of the user, establishes a connection with the user at the receiver to provide a request message indicating that the first user account associated with the user has an amount below a predetermined value, and receives a response message from the user in response to the request message and including a second unique number for use in adding an amount to the first user account; and

a second platform unit which receives the first unique number to authenticate that the user is associated with the first user account,

wherein if the second platform unit authenticates the user using the first unique number and the first platform unit receives the second unique number in the response message, one of the first and second platform units sends:

a replenishment message outside of the system to another account associated with the user and disposed on a platform external to the system, and

in a real-time transaction receives a replenishment amount from the other account that is added to the first user account, thereby making the replenishment amount available to pay for at least one communication service or transaction, provided or consummated, respectively via at least one of a plurality of networks of different types which are external to the first and second platforms.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 11, wherein the one of the first and second platform units further determines, using the received first and/or second unique numbers, the other account from which the replenishment amount is to be received.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A platform which changes amounts in accounts associated with users, the platform comprising:

an interface that receives, from a plurality of external networks of different types, a requesting message from a user at a receiver disposed outside of the platform requesting an increase in an amount stored in an account associated with the user;

a verification module that authenticates that the user is associated with the account so as to allow an increase or a decrease in the amount in the account; and

a processor that, if the user is authenticated as being associated with the account, determines another account associated with the user according to the requesting message, sends a top up request outside of the platform to the other account that was determined, to obtain an additional amount to top up the account in a real-time transaction, and, if the additional amount is received from the other account, allows topping up the account using the additional amount,

wherein

the platform is outside of the plurality of external networks of different types, and

the account being topped up is stored on a billing platform other than another platform on which the other account is stored and is used to pay for at least one communication service or transaction, provided or consummated, respectively via at least one of the external networks of different types.

14. (ORIGINAL) The platform of claim 13, wherein the verification module uses a password sent from the user at the receiver to verify that the user is associated with the account.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A platform, connected to a plurality of external networks of different types, which provides communication services and changes amounts in accounts associated with users, the platform comprising:

an interface through which a top up message and a requesting message are transmitted with respect to a user using a receiver disposed outside of the platform;

a storage unit which stores an account value associated with the user; and

a processor which performs billing of the account associated with the user for a communication service and/or transaction provided to the user, determines if the account has an amount below a predetermined amount, establishes a connection to the receiver to send the requesting message to the user at the receiver to request top up of the account such that the amount in the account is at or above the predetermined level, and receives the response message from the user requesting top up of the account,

wherein if the user is authenticated as being associated with the account, the platform receives an additional amount in a real-time transaction from an another account associated with the user in accordance with the requesting message and tops up the account using the additional amount to make the additional amount available to pay for at least one communication service or transaction, provided or consummated, respectively via at least one of the external networks, and the other account is stored on a platform other than the platform having the storage unit.

16. (ORIGINAL) The platform of claim 15, wherein the processor further receives from the user a password unique to the user for use in verification, and provides the received password to a verification module for use in authenticating that the user is associated with the account.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) At least one computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing the method of claim 1 performed by at least one computer.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) At least one computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing the method of claim 7 performed by at least one computer.

Claims 19-56 (CANCELLED)

57. (NEW) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions that when executed control at least one computer system to perform a method comprising:

storing a first user account of a user;

verifying identity of the user based on a first unique number received from the user;

sending to the user a message indicating that the first user account associated with the user has a balance below a predetermined value;

receiving, from the user in response to the message, a second unique number associated with a second user account of the user not accessible by the least one computer system; and

exchanging in a real-time transaction process, a replenishment request, including the second unique number, sent outside of the at least one computer system to an account system maintaining a second account of the user, and a replenishment message from the account system authorizing, based on the second unique number, transfer of an amount that is added to the first user account, thereby increasing the balance of the first account by the amount to pay for at least one of a communication service or a transaction, provided or consummated, respectively, via at least one of a plurality of networks of different types which are external to the at least one computer system and the account system.

58. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein said verifying further comprises authenticating the user using at least one of a security code, a password, user intervention, a PIN number, automatic call back or interactive voice response.

59. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein said method further comprises verifying that the user is within a specified area, country or that the at least one of the communication service or the transaction requested is within a user feature restriction level.

60. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein the second account is one of a pre-authorized account or a charge account.

61. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein said method further comprises recording information about the at least one communication service or the transaction, including at least one of location of the authorized user, a charged amount, the date, the time or the type of transaction.

62. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein the plurality of external networks of different types include a wireless communication network, a publicly switched telephone network, a landline communication network, a global or wide area computer network, the internet, a TCP/IP LAN, a SS-7 signaling network, an IP signaling network and a router network.

63. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein said method further comprises providing services of at least one of user account management functions, payment administration functions, rate plan functions, or security functions.

64. (NEW) The computer readable medium of claim 57, wherein said method further comprises processing real-time settlement data for the at least one of the communication service or the transaction.